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# SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-SHAALI (United Arab Emirates)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/46/3 (chap. IV, sect. A); A/46/18, A/46/166, A/46/183, A/46/184, A/46/344, A/46/391, A/46/447, A/46/465, A/46/501; A/C.3/46/2; E/1991/39)

AGENDA ITEM 93: RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION (continued) (A/46/166, A/46/184, A/46/292, A/46/294, A/46/304, A/46/344, A/46/459, A/46/501)

1. Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said it was imperative that all peoples should enjoy human rights. The most important tasks which the international community had to carry out in that connection derived from the provisions of international instruments such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It was important for the international community, in conjunction with the United Nations, to implement the Programme of Action. Document A/C.3/46/2 accurately reflected the activities undertaken by the United Nations to achieve the objectives of the Decade. In particular, he wished to mention the effective work of the Commission on Human Rights.

2. It was important that such issues should be made known and addressed throughout the world since young people needed to be aware of the reality and combat the evils of racism and racial discrimination. The role of education with respect to those issues could not be overemphasized.

3. Despite the efforts of the international community to eliminate racism, that detestable theory continued to hold sway in many parts of the world. Racial crimes were on the rise, and in South Africa - despite some positive signs such as the release of the political prisoners, the rescinding of certain laws and the legalization of the African National Congress - racist practices persisted.

4. The international community should maintain its political and military sanctions against South Africa, in accordance with United Nations resolutions. South Africa must become a democratic country, not a racist one, where everyone enjoyed fundamental human rights on a basis of equality. Furthermore, the people should have a share in the power, on a democratic basis.

5. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which was a Muslim country, considered all its citizens equal before the law, and had always condemned racist policies.

6. In view of the fact that the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was coming to an end and that all of its objectives had still not been fully attained, his delegation endorsed the proposal that there should be a third decade.

(Mr. Sergiwa, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

7. Turning to agenda item 93, he said that the Zionist regime of Israel continued to violate the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; that constituted an obstacle to a just and lasting solution to the conflict. Zionist expansionism was a manifestation of terrorism and of racist practices against the Palestinian people.

8. His country supported the desire for liberty of all peoples in their legimitate struggle for self-determination.

9. Mr. SOEMADI D. M. BROTODININGRAT (Indonesia) said that racism and racial discrimination were a major threat to international peace and security and to the safeguarding of fundamental freedoms. Their existence was an affront to the dignity of the human being and a violation of the human rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With the great changes which were currently taking place in the world and in relations between nations, the situation had become even more complex. On the one hand, the international community had before it a unique opportunity to strengthen friendly relations; on the other hand, manifestations of xenophobia and feelings of racial superiority were on the rise. The plight of refugees was aggravated by racial prejudice and intolerance.

10. The rights of migrant workers and their families should be respected and guaranteed. The fact that almost the entire population of Indonesia was indigenous did not by any means make his country insensitive to the problems faced by indigenous populations elsewhere.

11. Given the current state of the world, the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, proclaimed in 1983, took on greater urgency, and its basic objectives were more relevant than ever. Since the Programme of Action was still a useful and valid tool for the realization of those objectives, it was a matter of deep concern that lack of resources continued to hamper implementation of the measures planned.

12. Even more regrettable was the fact that, with barely two years remaining before the end of the Second Decade, there were clear signs that its objectives would not be met; millions of people continued needlessly to suffer from various forms of racism and racial discrimination. There was therefore considerable merit in the proposal regarding the proclamation of a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1991/11. In the meantime, it was to be hoped that efforts would continue until the last vestiges of racism and racial discrimination had disappeared and apartheid had been completely eradicated. To that end, in drawing up a programme of action for the third decade, careful consideration should be given to the shortcomings of the two previous decades.

(Mr. Soemadi D. M. Brotodiningrat, Indonesia)

13. The forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights offered a further opportunity to address the issue of racism and racial discrimination and, coinciding with the planned launching of the third decade, would be an auspicious occasion for underscoring the human rights dimension and the need to reinforce the principles of equality and non-discrimination. His delegation was pleased to learn that the fight against discrimination would be an important part of the work of the Conference.

14. The situation in South Africa continued to be a matter of great concern to the international community. Although important steps had been taken to dismantle the apartheid system, it could not be denied that apartheid still existed and that the South African people had yet to enjoy their full freedom. His delegation joined with those calling for the immediate start of constitutional negotiations, which would bring about a truly democratic and non-racial South African State, in which the rights of all citizens were respected. The Government of South Africa had a responsibility to end the violence and to create the proper environment for progress. His delegation hoped that all parties would exercise restraint, that the bloodshed would come to an end, and that there would be no divergence from the goal of eradicating apartheid and satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the South African people. His Government accordingly believed that any lifting of sanctions would be premature and should be deferred until the movement towards a non-racial and democratic State had become irreversible.

15. Turning to the question of self-determination, he said that his delegation would for the moment confine its remarks to the problem of the Palestinian people. The legitimate struggle of that people to secure the independence of their homeland reflected their desire to exercise the inalienable right to self-determination in the post-colonial era. To disregard that struggle would be tantamount to a denial of the fundamental rights defended by the United Nations. It was necessary to ensure that the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people were guaranteed, their aspirations fulfilled and their prolonged suffering ended. Indonesia welcomed the initiative to convene a peace conference, but believed that the most viable negotiating framework would be section C of General Assembly resolution 38/58. The international community must take advantage of the opportunity offered it to enable the Palestinian people at long last to enjoy the inalienable right to self-determination to which they were legitimately entitled.

16. Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) said that the United Nations had always promoted respect for human rights and had given high priority to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, particularly apartheid. Japan reiterated that the protection of human rights must be a universal endeavour, and had always condemned all forms of racism. Consequently, it had participated actively in international efforts to apply pressure to South Africa, as a result of which fundamental reforms had been enacted in that country and the legislative

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

pillars of apartheid had been removed. He welcomed the peace accord signed on 14 September 1991, and hoped that all parties concerned in South Africa would abide by it and that negotiations on a new constitution would start shortly.

17. Japan had undertaken to assist South Africans victimized by apartheid. It would accordingly continue to contribute to the various United Nations trust funds and the Kagiso Trust, a South African non-governmental organization, and would increase the number of non-white South Africans it accepted for its training programmes. His Government had also pledged a contribution of $US 3.2 million to the upcoming UNHCR project to promote the repatriation of South African exiles. Japan hoped that the General Assembly would never again have to take up the question of apartheid, and committed itself to working with the rest of the international community to eradicate racism and racial discrimination wherever they existed in the world.

18. Referring to the right of peoples to self-determination, he welcomed the Baltic States as new Members of the United Nations, but expressed his profound concern at the situation in Yugoslavia and said that a solution to the turmoil in that country must be found as a matter of urgency, through democratic and peaceful measures, in accordance with the Charter.

19. With regard to the situation in Cambodia, he was optimistic with regard to the possibility that, after the tremendous efforts made by the international community, a settlement might be reached through dialogue. Japan had undertaken a number of diplomatic initiatives, including the hosting of the Tokyo Meeting on Cambodia. His delegation welcomed the formulation of a draft agreement for a comprehensive political settlement by the Supreme National Council, and hoped that the international conference on Cambodia to be held in Paris in October would make it possible to finalize the agreement and to attain lasting peace in the region, with United Nations participation.

20. Japan welcomed the efforts to achieve a political settlement in Afghanistan, including the Secretary-General's five-point proposal, which it hoped would be implemented without delay. It also welcomed the agreement by the United States and the Soviet Union to end arms shipments. He said that his country would continue to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees.

21. With regard to the question of Palestine, Japan had always insisted that peace in the Middle East should be achieved on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), through Israel's withdrawal from all territories it had occupied since 1967 and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including the right to establish an independent State, and of Israel's right to exist. Japan fully supported the initiative by Secretary of State James Baker to convene a peace conference.

22. On the process of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, the Government of Japan welcomed the establishment of the United Nations

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and had donated 542 million yen to the Western Sahara repatriation programme in response to a request from UNHCR.

23. Miss GARCIA GRANADOS (Guatemala) said that the international community had striven over the last two decades to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, but that vestiges of those practices still remained. Significant progress had been made by the Government of South Africa towards the abolition of apartheid, but the highest priority must be given to legislative measures to ensure its total abolition. Guatemala welcomed the efforts by the United Nations and the organizations involved in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination to secure implementation of the programmes of action, particularly through the convening of seminars intended to enhance awareness of the issue. It attached great importance to the fact that the developed countries were supporting racial integration programmes and helping to obtain financial resources for the implementation of educational measures and programmes of action in the socially and economically less advanced countries aimed at bringing about the total elimination of inequalities.

24. The upsurge of discrimination and xenophobia against migrant workers and their families was a matter of great concern to Guatemala, in view of the quickening pace of migratory flows from developing to developed countries. Her delegation supported the request by the Economic and Social Council to the Secretary-General that attention should continue to be given to the question, and especially to the alarming economic situation of the developing countries. Guatemala called upon Governments to establish mechanisms for the implementation of recommendations and policies consistent with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

25. Guatemala reaffirmed its support for resolution 1991/33, in which the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities made provision for the celebration of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. She said that her Government's policies ensured its indigenous communities conditions of equality in the enjoyment of their rights and provided adequate guarantees of access to the opportunities granted to all Guatemalan citizens by the Constitution of the Republic.

26. Referring to agenda item 93, she said that Guatemala was a founding Member of the United Nations and was gratified that exercise of the right to self-determination of peoples had led to an increase in the number of Member States to 166. Consistent with that position, her Government recognized the right of the people of Belize to self-determination, a right which must be linked to the principle of democracy and which must be attained through legal and political means, renouncing violence and armed confrontation. Guatemala declared itself in favour of peace and brotherhood between peoples and firmly believed in the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the Charter

(Miss Garcia Granados, Guatemala)

of the United Nations. Consequently, despite its differences with Belize, its recognition of that State and the establishment of diplomatic relations would make it possible to resolve the problem in a civilized manner.

27. Guatemala condemned the violent disruption of the democratic process which had occurred in Haiti and supported the efforts of regional and international organizations to re-establish constitutional order in that country.

28. Her Government was continuing its efforts to consolidate the democratic process in Guatemala and to achieve social and economic well-being. She therefore called upon the international community to give its emphatic support to the process of peace and national reconciliation which had been initiated.

29. Mr. NAIM (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, referred to the remarks of the representative of Algeria and agreed that all countries must respect the rights of migrant workers. However, he did not agree that anti-Semitism should be an exception and should not be part of the struggle against racism, which was a universal struggle. Every ethnic group had the right to protection and anti-Semitism could not be covered up by being called zionism. The Third Committee should be at the forefront of the struggle against racism.

30. With regard to the observation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Israel considered that it was important to guarantee the rights of all citizens, whether or not they belonged to the same religion and whether or not they were Muslims. He asserted that Jews in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had suffered discrimination and had been expelled on the grounds that they were not Muslims.

31. In the opinion of his delegation, the Third Committee was guilty, in resolution 3379 (XXX), which stated that zionism was a form of racism, of accusing an ethnic group, the Zionists, of being racist. He went on to quote from speeches given by the representatives of Australia, Canada, Italy and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics condemning the comparison and calling for the rescinding of the resolution; he also quoted from statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom and by the President of the United States of America; the last-named had indicated that the resolution was a mockery of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. He urged his colleagues, in a spirit of conciliation, to join his delegation in seeking to rescind resolution 3379 (XXX).

32. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed his surprise that Israel had spoken again, thereby drawing further attention to the atrocities it was committing in the occupied Arab territories.

33. In his earlier intervention, the representative of Algeria had simply quoted from texts by theorists of zionism referring in plain language, to

(Mr. Sahraoui, Algeria)

"imperial character", "superiority", "chosen people" and "settlement", terms which clearly demonstrated Israel's intolerance and spirit of domination.

34. The Zionists' actions were as eloquent as their words: murder and destruction were common currency in Israel. Israelis themselves were victims of the Zionist regime, as was shown by the case of Abie Nathan, condemned to three years' imprisonment for having chosen the path of peace proposed by the Palestinians.

35. Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, rejected the charge of anti-Semitism which Israel had directed against his country. Libya was opposed to zionism as an expansionist and racist movement but was not in any way anti-Semitic. The Arab countries of North Africa had taken in the Jews fleeing from European anti-Semitism and had given them the opportunity of settling there and enjoying the same privileges as the other inhabitants of those countries.

36. The Zionist entity, for its part, expressed its racism not only against the Arabs but also against the Jews themselves: Oriental and black Jews were the victims of oppression by the white Jews of Europe and America. Nothing had changed to justify the international community in absolving zionism of its racist crimes. The Israelis, who were undermining efforts to achieve a peaceful solution by intensifying their colonialist policy of settlement in the occupied territories, had shown that they would not abandon their policy of expansionism, expulsion, terror and expropriation until they had realized their dream of creating a Greater Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people.

37. Mr. NECAJ (Albania) emphasized the importance of the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter and numerous resolutions of the General Assembly, and praised endeavours to institutionalize the questions relating to that right in an instrument of international law.

38. As history had shown, violation of the right of peoples to self-determination led inevitably to conflicts and destabilization. Empires and super-States created by force against the wishes of the nations concerned were bound, sooner or later, to fall apart and disappear. An example of that was what was happening in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

39. The crisis in Yugoslavia, which should be a cause for concern to the entire international community because it threatened to destabilize the whole Balkan region, should also be viewed as a consequence of the continuing denial to a people of its independence by preventing it from exercising its right to self-determination.

40. In 1913 Serbia invaded an unjustly annexed Kosovo. The Albanians living in Yugoslavia since then, who now numbered three million, had never become

(Mr. Necaj, Albania)

reconciled to that reality nor had they achieved political equality with the other peoples of Yugoslavia. In 1981 the Serbians, who had systematically denied the Albanians all possibility of dialogue and the use of democratic means of expression, resorted to the use of force and terror in order to suppress Albanian resistance in Kosovo. That left Kosovo no choice but to declare its independence in September 1990, establish itself as a free republic and support the idea of a Yugoslavia of independent nations.

41. The proclamation of independence by Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Kosovo showed that the principle of peoples' self-determination was the basis for the solution of the Yugloslav crisis. The Republic of Albania welcomed the result of the referendum recently held in Kosovo, which had demonstrated the people's support for the proclamation of Kosovo as an independent State entitled to participate in the league of sovereign states or republics making up Yugoslavia and had, for the first time since the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, made it possible for the Albanian people of Yugoslavia to exercise their right of self-determination.

42. In a world continuing to move towards integration, the exercise of the right to self-determination did not necessarily imply changes in international borders but it did demand respect for democratic processes and for the legitimate representatives of peoples and abstention from the use of force and repression. Albania strongly supported that principle and called on the peace-loving peoples of Yugoslavia to apply to the Albanians the same criteria they demanded for themselves in their struggle for self-determination, peace, independence and democracy.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.